EPA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MRI

Midwest Research Institute

FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION

FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONSORTIUM for POLLUTION PREVENTION EDUCATION

http://www.fc3p2e.com

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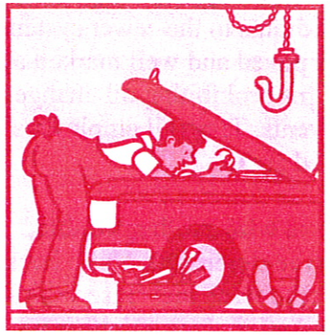
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's)

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Auto Body & Repair Shops

Car Dealerships

Gas Stations

Mobile Fleet Managers

Mobile Fleet Washing Business

Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us

The storm drainage systems of Florida lead to our local water bodies, and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. Storm drains were designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets out to Florida waterways. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying stormwater runoff, also referred to as ***Pointless Personal Pollution***, straight to these waterways.

When it rains, water mixes with pollutants creating ***Pointless Personal Pollution***. The pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Pointless Personal Pollution flows to our waterways through the storm drain system. Each day, polluted runoff enters the water untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash in our water.

Pointless Personal Pollution contaminates the waterways, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent ***Pointless Personal Pollution*** through Best Management Practices (BMPs). Using these BMPs will ensure cleaner waterways.

Environmental Awareness Saves Our Planet!

This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

Roadwork & Paving

Heavy Equipment

Concrete & Mortar Application

General Construction & Site Supervision

Food Service Industry

Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Painting

Automotive Maintenance Problems

Many common car maintenance routines contribute to water pollution. Washing the car or pouring used motor oil into a gutter or storm drain pollutes our waterways.

Water runoff from streets, parking lots and driveways pick up oil and grease dripped from cars, asbestos worn from brake linings, zinc from tires and organic compounds and metals from spilled fuels. These chemicals drain into our waterways, harming aquatic life.

Oil and grease, for example, clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals die.

Solutions

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.

Solutions for Automotive Maintenance

Cleaning Work Sites

Do not hose down your shop floor. It is best to sweep regularly. For more information about proper disposal of industrial waste, call your local water management district.

Use non-toxic cleaning products. Baking soda paste works well on battery heads, cable clamps and chrome; mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires; for windows, mix white vinegar or lemon juice with water.

Spills

Prepare and use easy to find spill containment and cleanup kits. Include safety equipment and cleanup materials appropriate to the type and quantity of materials that could spill.

Pour kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal on spills.

Fluids

Your customer's regular car maintenance prevents fluids from leaking onto streets and washing into storm drains. It is also good for business.

Change fluids carefully. Use a drip pan to avoid spills.

Prevent fluid leaks from stored vehicles. Drain fluids such as unused gas, transmission and hydraulic oil, brake and radiator fluid from vehicles or parts kept in storage.

Implement simple work practices to reduce the chance of spills. Use a funnel when pouring liquids (like lubricants or motor oil) and place a tray underneath to catch spills. Place drip pans under the spouts of liquid storage containers. Clean up spills immediately.

Washing Vehicles

Prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and toxics from washing into storm drains:

Designate a washing site where water drains to the sewer system. The area must be paved and well marked as a wash area. Post signs prohibiting oil changes and washing solvents. Train all employees to use the designated area.

Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent. Use a bucket (not a running hose) to wash and rinse vehicles. This conserves and minimizes pointless personal pollution.

Fueling Vehicles

Gas and diesel spills are common when fueling vehicles. To minimize pollution:

Design fueling areas so that all spills are contained and runoff cannot carry spills into storm drains. Spills should be directed to a containment area that allows for proper treatment and disposal.

Cover the fueling area to keep rain from washing away spilled materials. Extend the cover several feet beyond the containment area.

Keep absorbent materials on-site to allow prompt cleanup of all spills.

Post signs instructing people not to overfill gas tanks. Overfilling causes spills and vent gas fumes into the air.

Recycle

Recycle what you can:

- Metal scraps
- Used tires, paper and cardboard
- Glass, aluminum, and tin
- Water-based paints

Contacts

To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department.

For more information contact your local Water Management District.

Northwest Florida	**850-539-5999**
St. Johns River	**386-329-4500**
Southwest Florida	**352-796-7211**
South Florida	**561-686-8800**
Suwannee River	**386-362-1001**